Are your staff properly trained? Don't risk it call a certified local company today



All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.



Crane owner and operator face criminal charges

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has fined Concavage Marine Construction \$165,200 for wilful and serious workplace safety violations following a crane incident in Stamford Harbour Marina, Connecticut, last May.

The crane was extracting damaged piles from a barge when it flipped over backwards with the boom coming to rest on a boat. The company was fined \$98,000 for two wilful citations after OSHA's inspection found that the crane had not been inspected by a competent person who should have identified it lacked the necessary safety devices to prevent the boom from falling backwards. Fourteen serious citations relating to the set up, operation and maintenance of the crane and barge accounted for a further \$67,200 in fines.

Robert Kowalski, OSHA's area director in Bridgeport, said: "This crane should not have been operating. Not only did it lack required safety devices, it had not been inspected for these and other defects that should have been corrected before the crane began operating. The employer deliberately failed to adhere to basic crane safety standards, putting at risk the lives of its employees and anyone else in the vicinity."

Forklift and box costs £4,000

Richard Mann, Alexis Mann and Christopher Mann, of Stangrove Hall Farm and Hill Farm in Alderton, UK, were fined £3,000 plus costs of £993 after an employee was injured in an incident involving a dangerous lifting



A similar box to the one that was used to lift the 67 year old worker

operation. The man, 65, broke his shoulder blade, fractured seven ribs, chipped two vertebrae, cracked his pelvic cradle and sustained a serious head injury after falling three metres from an unsecured wooden box which had been lifted by a forklift truck.

An investigation found that although a safe and suitable system had been devised involving a work platform specifically designed for the forklift, and that appropriate training had been provided, no checks were made to ensure it was followed. It also found that employees regularly bypassed the system when the equipment was unavailable. HSE Inspector John Claxton, said: "This incident illustrates the need for duty holders to ensure work at height is carefully planned and managed at all times. That includes exercising vigilance to ensure the correct procedures are followed."



Oldham roofing firm Renov8 and its company director Darren Potts have been prosecuted by the UK's Health and Safety Executive after footage filmed by the BBC's TV programme Watchdog showed employees pressure washing roofs without any measures in place to prevent them from falling.

An investigation also found the company did not have any employers' liability insurance. The company was fined £1,000 plus costs of £1,255 while Potts was ordered to do 200 hours of community service as well as paying costs of £1,225.

Idiot on Ladders winner announced

The UK Ladder Association has announced this year's winner of its 'Idiots on Ladders' competition designed to highlight the worst examples of working at height using ladders.

The clear winner, with over four times as many votes as the runnerup, shows a man using a double extension ladder to prop up another ladder which is being used by a second man to carry out work on the steep church roof.



Ladder Association chairman Cameron Clow, said: "Idiots on Ladders is about shaming bad practice and showing how important training is. Ladders are a practical and indispensable option in the workplace, but like any other piece of work at height equipment they have to be used safely and competently. The association's message has always been that if it's right to use a ladder, use the right ladder and get trained to use it safely."

Who trained him then?

Spotted in Poland, a man straddling two wooden planks on top of a steel scaffold erected on the back of a tipper truck in an attempt to work on a roadside advertising hoarding at a height of around 10 metres.

